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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/810,489	03/19/2001	Atsushi Tomita	032360-010	8259

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Platon N. Mandros
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELMI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/16/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/810,489

Applicant(s)

TOMITA, ATSUSHI

Examiner

Salad E. Abdullahi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5,9-11,13 and 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6,8,12 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/21/2001.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

Response

1. The Response filed on 1/30/2006 has been received and made of record
1. Claims 5, 9-11, 13 and 15 are allowed.
2. Applicant's argument with respect claims 1-4, 6, 8, 12, and 14 have been fully considered but are not persuasive for the following reasons.

(A) Applicant alleges " Nothing in Kageyama shows, teaches or suggests first and second image forming apparatuses for forming an image on a sheet as claimed in claims 1, 12 and 14.

(B) Furthermore, Applicant alleges "Nothing in Kageyama "shows, teaches or suggests that the individual printer information part stores management information about a second image forming apparatus as claimed in claims 1, 12 and 14.

As per (A) examiner respectfully disagrees because Kageyama discloses when trouble is detected on printer 2200, it is transmitted the management information about second equipment (i.e., the printer controller 2100) with the trouble detected from printer controller 2200 (see paragraph 0078-0084). Furthermore, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus, wherein the equipment is an image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet (see fig. 1 and see paragraph 0088-0091).

Examiner further notes the specification is not clear as to whether the second image apparatuses is an image forming apparatus on a sheet. Examiner would like to

request the applicant to point out specific section of the specification that describes the second apparatus is an image forming apparatus on a sheet.

As per (B) Examiner respectfully disagrees because Kageyama discloses when trouble is detected on printer 2200, it is transmitted the management information about second equipment (i.e., the printer controller 2100) with the trouble detected from printer controller 2200 (see paragraph 0078-0084). Also, it is not clear from specification what the management information that is being transmitted is about. Examiner would like to request the applicant to point out specific section of the specification that describes what the management information about second equipment is.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, and 6, 8, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kageyama U.S. Patent No. 2002/0018681[hereinafter Kageyama]
As per claims 1, 12 and 14, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus (300) for transmitting management information collected from a plurality of equipment (network devices 2200) to a centralized management apparatus (management workstation 400), comprising:

a detector (2100) for detecting a trouble which has occurred in first equipment (2200) (see fig. 1 and paragraph 0078-0084);and

a transmission controller (300) for, when the trouble is detected by the detector, transmitting management information about second equipment which is other than the first equipment together with the trouble information about the first equipment to the centralized management apparatus (computer 400) (see fig. 1 and paragraph 0078-0084), wherein the first and second equipment are image forming apparatuses for forming an image on a sheet (see fig. 1 and see paragraph 0088-0091).

Kageyama is silent regarding: transmitting management information about second equipment .

Nonetheless, transmitting management information about second equipment would have been an obvious modification to Kageyama's system. Furthermore, Kageyama discloses database 2121 stores individual printer management information of plurality of printers and when trouble is detected on printer 2200, the printer controller transmits the trouble detected together with printer data database 2121 (see paragraph 0078-0084). Given the teaching of Kageyama one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the advantage of transmitting management information of second equipment such that proactive printer management can be made, thus enabling to minimize down time of printers.

As per claim 2, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmission controller responds to the detection of the trouble by

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the detector, and obtains the management information from the second (see paragraph 0088-0091)

As per claim 3, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmission controller transmits management information about a plurality of equipment including the second equipment (see fig. 1 and see paragraph 0088-0091)

As per claim 4, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a selector for selecting the second equipment among the plurality of equipment based on a specified condition (i.e., status condition) (see fig. 1 and see paragraph 0088-0091)

As per claim 6, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the specified condition is characteristics of each of the equipment, and the selector selects the second equipment based on the characteristics of each of the equipment)(see col.4, lines 48-64 and col. 6, lines 1-11).

As per claim 8, Kageyama discloses an equipment management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the equipment is an image forming apparatus for forming an image on a sheet (see fig. 1 and see paragraph 0088-0091).

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E Abdullahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4009. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

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8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abdullahi Salad
5/12/2007

ABDULLAHI SALAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER